



Certification and Higher Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the November 30, 2011 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2011, at the Department of Education in Augusta. The following were present: Chair Nancy Perkins; Jana Lapoint; and Dottie Martin (by phone) (Board Members); Harry Osgood and Mark Cyr (DOE Staff) and Mary Becker State Board of Education Secretary Associate.

Guest: Louise Berlin, Higher Education Council

Nancy Perkins called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Approval of Minutes:

MOVED by Dottie Martin, seconded by Jana Lapoint, and voted unanimously by those present to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2011 meeting as written.

Updates

➤ Certification (Mark Cyr):

No Report

➤ Higher Education (Harry Osgood):

Upcoming Program Reviews:

- St. Josephs College - A site visit has been scheduled for February 5, 2012 through February 8, 2012. Nancy Perkins will be the State Board Observer.
- University of Maine at Presque Isle (UMPI) – A site visit has been scheduled for February 12, 2012 through February 15, 2012. Dottie Martin will be the State Board Observer.
- Unity College – A site visit has been scheduled for March 4, 2012 through March 7, 2012. Jana Lapoint will be the State Board Observer.
- Thomas College Interim Report will be presented for approval at the January 11, 2012 State Board meeting.

➤ Educational Testing Services (Cathy Owens-Oliver):

Cathy joined the meeting by phone.

- Discussion on changing the format of tests. Instead of multiple choice questions, constructed response questions are being incorporated into the tests
- Example: Maine is currently using the Language Arts test #41 and should be adopting test #44 which includes the constructed response. Another aspect of the changing test scene is how Maine's cut scores compare with the other five New England states that Maine is involved in reciprocity discussions. Some of Maine's tests have lower cut scores than the other five states. Even though students may pass with Maine's cut score, if they wish to teach in one of the other five states, they would need to re-take the test.

➤ Online Learning (Jeff Mao and David Patterson - DOE):

- There are three avenues open to Maine's high school students
 - Virtual High School (700 students enrolled in 2011)
 - Academe (sponsored by UMO – free to juniors and seniors)
 - AP4ALL (sponsored by DOE – offered eight AP courses in 2011)
- The Maine Online Learning Program has established a list of approved on-line providers for districts. Three are currently posted:
 - Apex Learning
 - Connections Academy
 - K12 Inc.
- Resource – Keeping Pace with K-12 Online Learning (updated enrollment stats, trends and analysis)

➤ Handouts:

- Praxis Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5031) – Cathy Owens-Oliver
- Multi-State Standard Setting Technical Report – Cathy Owens-Oliver

The next Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2012 at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held in room 541 of the Cross State Office Building.

Adjournment

The Certification Committee meeting adjourned at 12:03 PM.